



# NEWS RELEASE

## ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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**Majority Leader David M. Gowan, R-Sierra Vista (Dist. 14)**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **GOWAN VISITS NOGALES PROCESSING CENTER HOUSING CHILDREN**

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX (July 1, 2014) – After visiting the Nogales processing center, housing nearly 1,000 unaccompanied children, House Majority Leader David Gowan said he was saddened by the magnitude of the humanitarian crisis, but more certain than ever that fixing the problem at the southwestern border will require significantly more resources from the federal government as well as coordination from our southern neighbors.

“These were just kids, some so very young,” said Gowan. “It truly breaks my heart to see them in this situation.”

Gowan added that Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is to be commended for keeping the children sheltered with plenty of food, games and TV, and more importantly, out of harm’s way.

“After this crisis has passed, we need to focus on a long term solution to the problem of illegal immigration,” Gowan said. “Securing the southwestern border and dramatically improving the time it takes to process individuals who are apprehended has to be foremost in the plan.”

In the meantime, Gowan said, “We’re paying it forward by taking care of these kids”

At the same time, elected officials must work toward a plan that addresses both push factors in El Salvador and Honduras as well as pull factors, like the Obama administration’s Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals that serves no one but human traffickers and organized criminals, added Gowan.

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